

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING FOR APHIS PEST AND
DISEASE CONTROL AND ERADICATION PROGRAMS

1. PURPOSE

This Directive requires the development and implementation of environmental monitoring plans for certain activities conducted by APHIS pest and disease control and eradication programs.

2. AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

- a. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.
- b. Regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality implementing the procedural aspects of NEPA, 40 CFR 1500-1508.
- c. Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.
- d. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), 7 U.S.C. 136-136y.
- e. Toxic Substances Control Act, 15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.
- f. Noise Control Act, 42 U.S.C. 4901, et seq.
- g. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6981, et seq.
- h. Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 1857, et seq.
- I. Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. 1251, et seq.
- j. Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300-1, et seq.
- k. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601, et seq.
- l. APHIS Directive 1060.1, Controlling Environmental Pollution at Federal Facilities.
- m. APHIS Manual 203, Health and Safety.

3. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Environment** means water, air, land, and all life forms in them, and the interrelationships that exist among these components.
- b. **Environmental monitoring** means the systematic measurement and analysis of changes in environmental components or processes in order to:
 - (1) Assess the effects of a program action on the environment.

- (2) Ensure program compliance with laws, regulations, policies, executive directives, and management decisions.

c. **Sample collection** means field sampling of the environmental components that are considered most sensitive and most likely to indicate any potential impact.

4. BACKGROUND

The mission of APHIS is to provide leadership in ensuring the health and care of animals and plants, to improve agricultural productivity and competitiveness, and to contribute to the national economy and the public health. APHIS is committed to accomplishing its mission in a manner that promotes and protects the integrity of the environment. This includes Agency compliance with all applicable environmental statutes.

APHIS conducts many types of monitoring activities to assess the adequacy of its programs in meeting specific objectives. Examples include efficacy of control treatments, effectiveness and efficiency of program operating procedures, and compliance with environmental or health and safety statutes. In some cases, the same monitoring samples can be used to satisfy different monitoring objectives.

The goal of environmental monitoring is to track the potential impact that APHIS activities may have on the environment, and to use this knowledge in making any necessary adjustments in future program actions. Viewed in this way, environmental monitoring is an essential part of the Agency's decision support system which provides valuable program-related feedback to decisionmakers.

5. POLICY

In order to monitor for potential environmental impacts related to APHIS control and eradication programs, APHIS units must develop and implement environmental monitoring plans when any of the following apply:

- a. A requirement for such monitoring is contained in a program's environmental documentation, such as an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement developed to comply with NEPA, or documents prepared to comply with the Endangered Species Act.
- b. Pesticides are applied under FIFRA, section 18 exemptions (i.e., for emergency situations).
- c. The Administrator of APHIS determines that circumstances dictate the need for environmental monitoring of particular action.

6. DESIGN OF ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING PROGRAMS

a. New Programs.

- (1) Any APHIS unit that designs a new program must ensure that environmental monitoring plans are contained in the overall program design.
- (2) New monitoring program design activities must be coordinated with:
 - (a) Biotechnology, Biologics, and Environmental Protection (BBEP).
 - (b) Policy and Program Development (PPD).
 - (c) Other APHIS units, as appropriate.
- (3) When PPD designs a new program, environmental monitoring plans must be coordinated

with:

- (a) BBEP.
- (b) The APHIS unit that will implement the new program.
- (c) Other APHIS units, as appropriate.

- b. Ongoing Programs. BBEP must recommend and communicate changes in the design of monitoring plans for ongoing programs.

7. SAMPLE COLLECTION

- a. Plant Protection and Quarantine, International Services, Animal Damage Control, Veterinary Services, and, when necessary, Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care and BBEP, must budget adequate resources, and collect samples in accordance with monitoring plans.
- b. BBEP must develop operational guidelines (manuals) and train field personnel in monitoring and sampling techniques.

8. SAMPLE ANALYSIS

- a. BBEP must analyze samples to furnish data useful for interpretation.
- b. When it is more economical and efficient, APHIS units may employ private laboratories for sampling and analysis.

9. INTERPRETATION

- a. BBEP must review data and compare it with environmental standards and monitoring objectives.
- b. BBEP must assess the statutory implications of monitoring results, particularly for compliance with NEPA.

10. COMMUNICATION AND ACTION

- a. BBEP must communicate the results from their interpretation activities to appropriate APHIS units and outside organizations.
- b. Based on interpretation results, APHIS units must:
 - (1) Adjust monitoring plans and techniques to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness.
 - (2) Amend environmental documentation, when appropriate, to incorporate revised monitoring plans and pertinent data from previous monitoring.
 - (3) Determine program compliance with environmental statutes, regulations, policies, executive directives, and management decisions.
 - (4) Adjust or provide alternative program operating procedures to minimize the potential for adverse environmental impacts.

11. INQUIRIES

The policy and instructions in this Directive are based on the paper "Environmental Monitoring Policy for APHIS Pest and Disease Control and Eradication Programs," prepared by a team of representatives from the major APHIS units, and issued November 15, 1989.

Direct requests for copies or other inquiries to BBEP on 301-734-7175.

Acting Administrator